



**Soy Aquaculture Alliance (SAA)
FY2024 Research Program
Social license in Offshore Aquaculture**

Contract Number: Contract_44211_Aquaculture Social License_FY2024_Final

Amount of Award: \$99,988.00

Project Title: Phase II Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Engagement for Offshore Aquaculture Opportunities for South Florida

Recipient: Gulfstream Aquaculture, LLC

Award Period: 01/01/2024 thru 12/31/2024

Period Covered by this Report: 03/01/2024 thru 05/17/2024

Summary of Progress and Expenditures to Date:

Reporting Period Work Accomplishments:

The summary of work accomplishments that follow, were derived from the 05/17/24 CFI Report 2 to, and supplemented, by Gulfstream Aquaculture (Dennis Peters). In January 2024, nine (9) of the original 2023 participants were identified and confirmed to take part in a 2024 Phase II CAP facilitated by CFI, with the stated objective: The CAP participants would work together to identify local questions, interests, and expectations to help foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the community and the intended Business. During this first bimonthly period, CFI identified and confirmed three new participants for a total of twelve (12) individuals. However, after the second CAP meeting, three participants were having difficulties with their scheduling commitments; therefore, CFI interviewed and acquired commitments from four additional community representatives.

These South Florida community representatives comprise the following affiliations/backgrounds:

- College professors (3)
- Non-profit coral propagation representative
- Fire inspector
- Moving & storage small business owner
- Non-profit fishing foundation representative
- USACE, Army Corps of Engineers retiree
- Local school district education foundation representative
- Commercial fishman & fish house/restaurant owner
- Family-owned grocery store owner
- Boy Scouts Sea Base (STEM) representative
- Retired U.S. Coast Guard personnel
- Lunch & breakfast business owner
- Concierge services owner
- Health food store/restaurant owner
- Hardware store business owner

Interest in this aquaculture project was evident by the multiple questions and rich discussions that occurred at the February 29, 2024, CAP #1 meeting. As performed during the 2023 Phase I CAP meetings, CFI and Gulfstream Aquaculture identified third-party, subject matter experts (SMEs) to attend the remaining CAP meetings to address the topics of interest identified by the CAP participants:

- CAP #2 - Water Quality Effects** Chris Schillaci, Research Marine Ecologist, NOAA | National Ocean Service National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Marine Spatial Ecology Division
 - CAP #3 - Fishing Industry Effects** Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association
Former President of the Board, National Aquaculture Association (NAA)
 - CAP #4 - Labor/Housing/Salaries** Kimberly L. Morgan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Economist; Southwest Florida Research and Extension Center (SWFREC), University of Florida
 - CAP #5 - Seafood Product Marketing, Distribution and Sales** Chris Nelson, President, Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc.; Bon Secour, AL
 - CAP #6 - Fish Wellness (Broodstock thru Harvest)** Hugh Mitchell, DVM
Aquatic NW Veterinary Services, Kirkland, WA
- &**
- Business Update & Timeline** Dennis Peters, M.Sc., CEO/President, Gulfstream Aquaculture, LLC
Possibly Neil Sims, CEO, Ocean Era, Inc.

Chris Schillaci, Research Marine Ecologist with NOAA, National Ocean Service and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, attended the April 11, 2024, CAP #2 meeting and provided a presentation on sustainability and water quality. He provided further context for how NOAA encourages and fosters sustainable aquaculture development that is in harmony with healthy, productive, and resilient marine ecosystems. The details and examples shared were well received by the participants. The following excerpts provide a few highlights of the material covered by Mr. Schillaci:

The Ocean Service AquaPortfolio

NOAA's toolbox for sustainable ocean planning and siting



National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science National Ocean Service		Marine Spatial Science for Pioneering Ocean Industries			
OceanReports Tool	AquaData Catalog	AquaMappers	Spatial Intelligence	Aquaculture Planning	Entanglement Simulators
4 million	33 million	9,500	40	5	∞
The number of square miles of U.S. ocean space that can be analyzed in 1 second using OceanReports	The number of data layers we analyze to find the right space for your ocean industry	The number of users since launch in 2018	The number of spatial analyses we have completed for offshore projects since 2018	We are developing planning areas for offshore aquaculture development in 5 regions of the U.S.	The number of possible scenarios that we can model to predict entanglement risk of whales/turtles using virtual reality and artificial intelligence

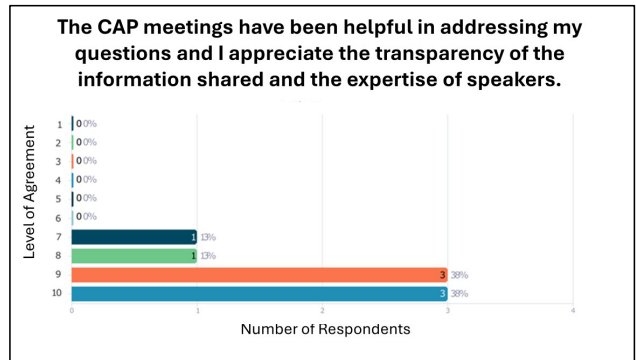
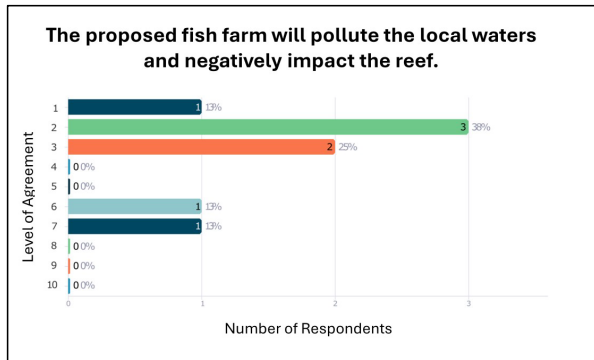
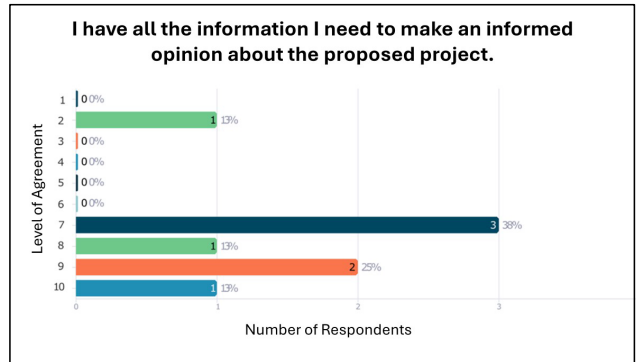
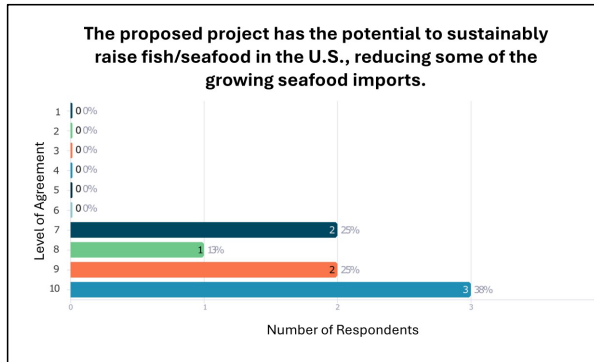
SCIENCE SERVING COASTAL COMMUNITIES








At the close of the CAP #2 meeting, participants were requested to take a survey, to record their perceptions (a follow-up survey will be taken at the end of the year as well.) This recent survey recorded participants' viewpoints and understanding of the project and captured information from the 8 participants that were in attendance that day who completed the survey questions. Individuals were asked to rate their level of agreement on a scale of 1 to 10 -- with 10 indicating strong agreement and 1 indicating strong disagreement. The following graphics provide a few of the key outcomes of the survey. Given the activities of the previous year of CAP meetings, the project has demonstrated a strong base of support.



Next Reporting Period Work Objectives:

The next CAP meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2024, and the featured speaker will be Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association. He will provide his perspective and experience on how aquaculture development can positively benefit the entire fish and seafood industry in a specific region. This presentation will help to address the question of “What impacts the proposed project may have on the local recreational and commercial fishing industries”.

Reporting Period Expenditures:

The expenditures across the proposal subcategories are provided in a subsequent Gulfstream Aquaculture invoice to SAA.

No issues are currently anticipated. As such, Gulfstream Aquaculture will continue to coordinate closely with CFI staff to ensure overall project schedule milestones and objectives are on track with the originally proposed activities and expenditures for the successful completion of the project.

Prepared By: 
Signature of Principal Investigator

05/23/2024
Date